

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE

1. The VNO (Voenno Nauchnoye Obshestvo - Military Science Association) was to be found at each military academy (but not military school - uchilishe) and at each headquarters of a military district (okrug). Its membership consisted of officers, who studied and produced monographs on military matters. Membership was voluntary, but it was wiser to join than not. There was a VNO connected with the Frunze Military Academy and almost all of the approximately one thousand instructors were members as of early 1941. However, only about three per cent were active in writing and presenting research papers.
2. The Association was divided into sections corresponding to the arms and services of the Soviet Army. Each section could have a member write a paper on some topic, such as "Camouflage as Defense against Attack by Aircraft", and read it at a meeting, where it would be discussed. Each section met separately about once a month. A member of one section could attend a meeting of another section.
3. In the years following 1937, when the very extensive purge of army officers took place in connection with the Marshal Tukhachevsky case, VNO was not very useful. A presiding officer (predsedatel) of a specific VNO was elected by the members. From 1937 until the summer of 1940, this post, for the VNO at Frunze, was held by Major General Vassili -- Kornilov-Drugov [equivalent to Brigadier General in the US Army]. Kornilov, an artillery general, was talkative but not too serious about his job. He was later in

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charge of artillery in the Central Asian military district (okrug) and then in the Far Eastern military district. He was a protégé of the prominent Army General (fnu) Apanasenko /equivalent to full General in the US Army/. Both men were killed when their staff car went over a land mine near Kharkov in about 1942.

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